

Ben Vereen to star in annual "Evening With benefit sponsored by UCSD Medical Center Auxiliary October 22

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BEN VEREEN TO STAR IN ANNUAL "EVENING WITH..." BENEFIT SPONSORED BY UCSD MEDICAL CENTER AUXILIARY OCTOBER 22

Broadway, television and screen star Ben Vereen will bring his many talents to San Diego Oct. 22 when the UCSD Medical Center Auxiliary holds its annual "Evening With..." benefit at the Sheraton Harbor Island Hotel.

Proceeds from the black tie event will benefit the UCSD Center for Child and Adolescent Health, which provides advanced medical care for children from around the globe. Vereen is personally involved with youth, both as spokesman for organizations such as "Drug Free America" and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and in motivational appearances at schools, churches and community meetings. Following the death of his daughter in a car accident, Vereen established the Naja Vereen Memorial Scholarship Fund to aid disadvantaged youth, and he currently is involved in creating a rehabilitation center in the New York area where he grew up.

A year after suffering a near fatal accident, Vereen made a triumphant return to Broadway in the spring of 1993 in the hit musical "Jelly's Last Jam." His many other Broadway appearances include "Sweet Charity," "Hair," "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Pippin." His many television credits include creating the unforgettable "Chicken George" in the mini-series "Roots," while movie-goers recall his memorable performance in "All That Jazz."

The cabaret act which he will bring to San Diego is a show-stopping medley of song and dance, ranging from tender ballads to electrifying high-energy numbers.

Ellen MacVean and Chloe Moore are co-chairs of the event, which begins with a 6:30 p.m. social hour and dinner, dancing and entertainment at 7:30 p.m.

Reservations are \$150 each, with seating at tables for 10. For information, call the UCSD Medical Center at 543-6499 or Brenda Goldbaum at 452-0408.

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